(d) BSNL has already placed an Advance Purchase Order (APO) on the successful bidder. The bidder has accepted the offer by submitting Purchase Bank Guarantee (PBG) with some conditions, which are under evaluation. Equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order.

New subscribers for mobile services

1236. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during four months (March-June 2007), the telecom operators in the country added 14.6 million new subscribers for mobile services;

(b) whether the public sector BSNL added just one million to its mobile subscriber base across 21 circles during this period and pushed down to fourth place;

(c) whether consumers feel that BSNL's decline is bad for them as in the past, both BSNL and MTNL had played crucial roles in beating down call tariffs especially roaming charges; and

(d) the steps which are being planned to regain the share of subscriber base both for BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During the four month period from March to June, 2007, telecom operators in the country added 22.51 million subscribers for wireless services.

(b) BSNL has contributed to overall mobile growth by adding 2.98 million connections during this period.

(c) and (d) Due to mobile equipment capacity constraints, BSNL growth has been comparatively lesser. BSNL has already placed an Advance Purchase Order (APO) on the successful bidder. The bidder has accepted the offer by submitting Purchase Bank Guarantee (PBG) with some conditions, which are under evaluation. Equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order. MTNL has already taken steps for expansion of mobile network by 750 K lines each in Delhi and Mumbai and the equipment is being installed. The two PSUs are making all efforts to improve their market share.

Poor quality of services

1237. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has recently expressed its displeasure regarding poor quality of service provided by private service providers both in the fields of land line and mobile telephony;

(b) if so, the specific areas where improvements are needed; and